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## Republican John Thune of South Dakota is elected the next Senate majority leader

By MARY CLARE JALONICK  
and STEPHEN GROVES

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Republicans have elected South Dakota Sen. John Thune as the next Senate majority leader, completing a momentous shift in their leadership that elevates a top deputy of Mitch McConnell into a key position as President-elect Donald Trump returns to the White House. Thune, 63, is in his fourth Senate term and has promised to work closely with Trump, despite differences the two have had over the years, and will be a crucial part of the incoming president's efforts to push through his policy agenda. The two spoke on the phone shortly after Thune was elected, the senator posted on X Wednesday afternoon, adding that "Senate Republicans are excited and ready to get to work" with the incoming president.

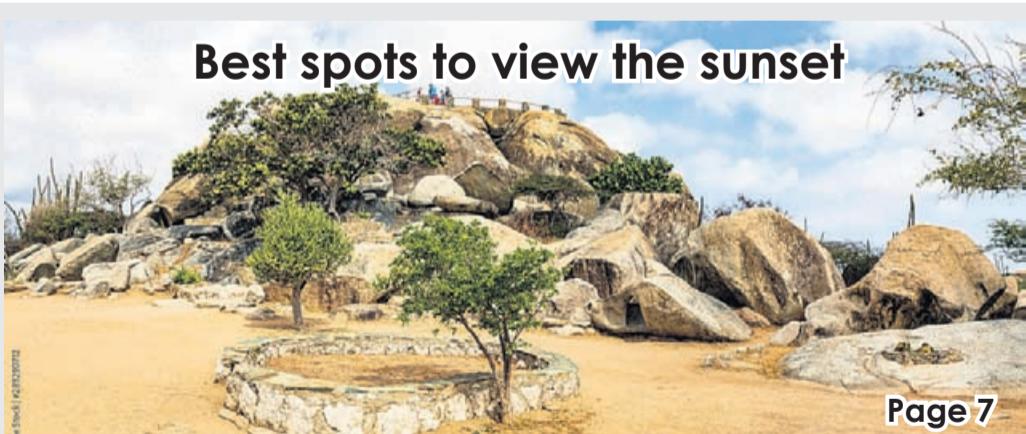


Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., walks to the chamber as Congress returns for the lame-duck session at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024.

Associated Press

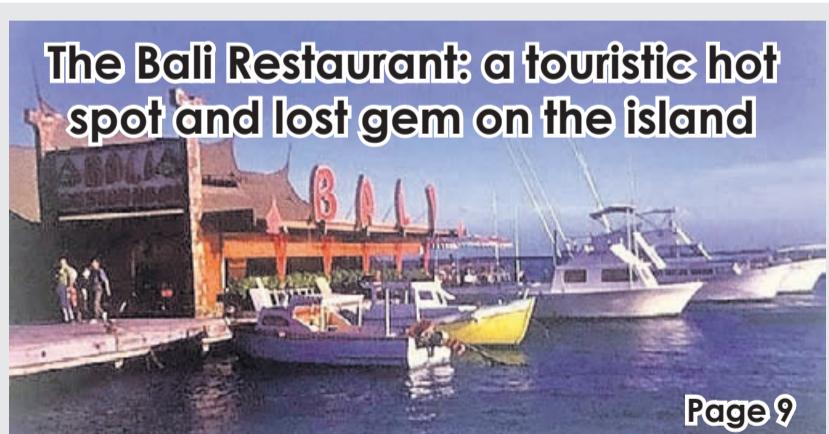
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"HIDDEN GEM IN PALM BEACH"  
LOCATED ACROSS THE HILTON CASINO AND RESORT IN THE VILLAGE MALL  
Reservations Open Table



# Republican John Thune of South Dakota is elected the next Senate majority leader

**Continued from Front**

Trump later congratulated Thune on his social media platform, Truth Social. "He moves quickly, and will do an outstanding job," Trump wrote. "I look forward to working with him."

Thune beat out two other competitors, Sens. John Cornyn and Rick Scott, by gaining majority support from GOP senators in two rounds of secret ballots behind closed doors. Scott was eliminated on the first round and the final vote between Thune and Cornyn was 29-24, according to several people who requested anonymity to discuss the private meeting. Republicans are replacing McConnell, the longest serving Senate party leader, as they prepare to take majority control of the Senate with the 53 seats they won in last week's elections. It was the first competitive election for Republican leader in three decades and Senate Republicans' first regime change since McConnell became GOP leader in 2007.

Thune's election represents a major shift in the upper chamber's GOP conference as many senators have been eager to move on from McConnell's long and powerful reign. But it will also be a complicated test for Thune as he will have to manage a conference that is often divided over policy, navigate Trump's demands of the legislative branch and secure policy wins for the president as he begins his second term. "It is a new day in the United States Senate," Thune told reporters immediately after he was elected. He said his majority will work to toughen border security laws, lower energy costs and overturn regulations they see as burdensome.

"We are excited to reclaim the majority and to get to work with our colleagues in the House to enact President Trump's agenda," Thune said. As the candidates tried to win over individual senators, all of their pitches centered around how close they would be to Trump. That was a more difficult



**Senate Minority Whip John Thune, R-S.D., meets with reporters after he was elected to succeed longtime GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

task for Cornyn and Thune, who broke publicly with the former president over his effort to overturn his defeat in the 2020 presidential election and the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol. At the time, Thune called Trump's actions "inexcusable."

In recent months, though, Thune has worked to smooth over that relationship, visiting Trump at his Florida home and consulting with him on how to implement the incoming president's agenda. Thune told The Associated Press over the summer that he views their potential relationship as a professional one. If they both won their elections, Thune said then, "we've got a job to do."

As he made his case, Thune has made clear that he will listen to Trump's demands. When Trump posted on X Sunday that the new leader "must agree" to allow him to appoint Cabinet members and others when the Senate is on recess, avoiding confirmation votes, Thune quickly responded in a statement that the Senate must "quickly and decisively" act to get nominees in place

and that "all options are on the table to make that happen, including recess appointments."

Speaking to reporters after he was elected, Thune noted that "the Senate has an advise and consent rule in the Constitution" but that they will do everything they can to get his nominees in place. "How that happens remains to be seen," Thune said.

Thune's win is all the more extraordinary because of his 2004 election to the Senate — defeating then-Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle after arguing during the campaign that Daschle had lost his South Dakota roots during his years in Democratic leadership. Twenty years later, Thune will become majority leader himself.

Well liked and a respected communicator, Thune has been perceived as a frontrunner for much of the year. Like McConnell, he hails from the Republican Party's more traditional wing.

He is a former chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee and has held the Republican whip position — no. 2 in party leadership — since

2019. He took over for McConnell for several weeks last year when he was on a medical leave, a move that was widely seen as an audition of sorts as speculation surrounded McConnell's future.

As he geared up to run for leader, Thune spent much of the year campaigning for his colleagues. According to his aides, he raised more than \$31 million to elect Senate Republicans this cycle, including a \$4 million transfer from his own campaign accounts to the Senate's main campaign arm.

The election was difficult for many in the conference who saw Thune and Cornyn as similar choices. They are alike on policy, voting generally in step with the conference but working with Democrats at times. Cornyn is a longtime member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who took a leading role on bipartisan gun legislation two years ago.

But the two differed on whether the leader should be term limited — a key demand from some in the conservative wing. Cornyn

pushed for limits, while Thune did not.

Scott, the former governor of Florida, was elected to the Senate in 2018 and quickly positioned himself as a foil to McConnell, running against him for leader in 2022 and aligning with Utah Sen. Mike Lee and others who have been highly critical of the current leadership.

As Thune and Cornyn wooed their colleagues one by one all year, Scott was tied up in his own reelection race. He handily defeated Democrat Debbie Mucarsel-Powell by more than 10 points.

In the week since the election, Scott aggressively stepped up his campaign for GOP leader, campaigning publicly as the candidate closest to Trump and winning endorsements from people who are close to the former and future president, such as billionaire Elon Musk. But some questioned whether that strategy might backfire. South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds, Thune's home state colleague, said that he prefers the way that Thune and Cornyn have "handled it one-on-one with everybody," but that he had talked to Scott as well. "We've got three qualified individuals," he said ahead of the race.

Still, both Thune and Cornyn adopted some of Scott's ideas as they worked to win over voters. Thune told the conference in a candidate forum Tuesday evening that he would allow more amendments on the floor and improve communication from McConnell's regime, addressing frequent complaints from that wing of the conference.

McConnell did not say who he was supporting, but said after the vote that Thune's victory was a "clear endorsement of a consummate leader."

"The American people elected Republicans to restore stability and order after four years of Washington Democrats' failure," McConnell said. "John Thune will take the reins with a tremendous opportunity to lead this transformation, and Senate Republicans stand behind him, ready to get to work." □



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## Judge recuses himself in Arizona fake elector case after urging response to attacks on Kamala Harris

By JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press

**PHOENIX (AP)** — A judge recused himself Tuesday from presiding over Arizona's fake electors case after an email surfaced in which he told fellow judges to speak out against attacks on Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign for the presidency.

In the Aug. 29 email, Maricopa County Judge Bruce Cohen lamented that he didn't speak out when Harris was called a "DEI hire," believes that white men must speak out against unfair treatment of women, and raised a historical lesson from the Holocaust about the need to speak up when people are attacked. Cohen didn't specify who made the comment regarding Harris. "We cannot allow our colleagues who identify as being a 'person of color' to stand alone when there are those (who) may claim that their ascension was an 'equity hire' rather than



Judge Bruce Cohen speaks during a pre-trial hearing Aug. 27, 2024, during the fake electors case in Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix.

Associated Press

based solely upon exceptionalism," the judge told his colleagues in the email. Cohen later wrote another email telling his fellow judges that he let his passion cloud his views and apologized to anyone affected

by his lapse in judgment in using an email forum for judges that was not appropriate for unsolicited comments. Lawyers for Republican state Sen. Jake Hoffman, who faces nine felony

charges in the case, sought the judge's removal, arguing Cohen "bears a deep-seated personal political bias that overcame his professional judgment" and that their client has lost confidence in the judge's

impartiality.

Hoffman is one of 11 Republicans who submitted a document to Congress falsely declaring that then-President Donald Trump won Arizona in the 2020 election.

They include the former state party chair, a 2022 U.S. Senate candidate and two sitting state lawmakers. Two former Trump aides and five lawyers connected to Trump, including Rudy Giuliani, also were charged in the case. All 18 people were charged with forgery, fraud and conspiracy.

"Given the statements the judge made, I think it's appropriate that he recuse himself," Arizona attorney Mark L. Williams, who is representing Giuliani, said after Cohen's decision. "The way I see it, the case against Mr. Giuliani and the other defendants is falling apart and I think the attorney general should just wind down the case and dismiss it." □

## U.S. government worker charged with leaking classified documents on Israel's plans to strike Iran

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A man who worked for the U.S. government has been charged with leaking classified information assessing Israel's earlier plans to attack Iran, according to court papers filed Wednesday. The man, identified as Asif William Rahman, was arrested by the FBI this week in Cambodia and was due to make his first court appearance in Guam.

He was indicted last week in U.S. court in Virginia on two counts of willful transmission of national defense information felony charges that can carry significant prison sentences.

It was not immediately clear whether Rahman had a lawyer or which federal agency employed him, but officials say he had

top secret security clearance.

The charges stem from the documents, attributed to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, appearing last month on a channel of the Telegram messaging app. The documents noted that Israel was still moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1.

Israel carried out a retaliatory attack on multiple sites in Iran in late October.

The documents were sharable within the "Five Eyes," which are the United States, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The New York Times was first to report his arrest. □



The FBI's J. Edgar Hoover headquarters building is seen in Washington on Nov. 2, 2016.

Associated Press

## Explosion at Kentucky business injures 11 workers, shatters windows in surrounding neighborhood

By DYLAN LOVAN and REBECCA REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)** — At least 11 employees were taken to hospitals after an explosion Tuesday at a Louisville, Kentucky, plant caused a partial collapse of the building and blew out windows in nearby homes and businesses.

The explosion occurred around 3 p.m. at Givaudan Sense Colour, which produces colorings for food and drinks. Firefighters rescued and evacuated many people from the building, including some with life-threatening injuries, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said in a statement Tuesday night.

Greenberg said officials have accounted for everyone who was working at the plant at the time.

The cause was under investigation. Greenberg said officials spoke to employees inside the plant and they "initially conveyed that everything was normal activity when the explosion occurred."

Patrick Livers lives in a neighborhood immediately across the railroad tracks



This image taken from video from WHAS 11 News shows damage after an explosion injured multiple employees at Givaudan Sense Color, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, in Louisville,

Associated Press

from the plant. He was at work when his mother, who had picked up his children from school and was bringing them home, called to say his home had been damaged by the explosion.

"I was like, 'What are you talking about?' Then she showed me the video. I was like, 'Oh you've got to be kidding me,'" he said.

Livers said no one was home at the time. He said the explosion blew out

windows up and down his street.

"The house is still standing. It's just structural damage. If it was on a wall, it's on the floor," he said. "All the neighbors' windows busted out, doors blown in. It looked like a small tornado went off inside the house." Steve Parobek was at work when the blast blew out the kitchen window in his apartment a block from the plant. He arrived home and found his cat safe and

used two pizza boxes and some duct tape to cover his window as temperatures dropped steadily Tuesday night.

A Givaudan spokesperson didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Tuesday night. No one answered the phone at the company's Louisville office, and a man who answered at the Port Washington, Wisconsin, office declined to comment. The University of Louisville

Hospital treated seven of the injured and two were in critical condition, said Dr. Jason Smith, chief medical officer for University of Louisville Health. Hospital officials activated decontamination procedures for the victims, a process that involves removing their clothing and all the chemicals on them and then taking them for evaluation and treatment, Smith said.

Louisville Fire Chief Brian O'Neill said air monitoring began immediately after the explosion and "nothing at this point has ever shown any type of chemical problems in the air in this entire region." O'Neill also said that fire officials "don't precisely know yet exactly what types of leaks may happen or may be ongoing," but he urged residents to stay calm.

The Louisville Fire Department was leading the investigation as of Tuesday night with help from state and federal partners. A reconstruction team from Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was headed to Louisville to help determine the cause of the explosion. □

## Gun groups sue to overturn Maine's new three-day waiting period to buy firearms

By DAVID SHARP  
Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** — A coalition of gun groups has filed a lawsuit claiming that Maine's new 72-hour waiting period for firearms purchases is unconstitutional and seeking an injunction stopping its enforcement pending the outcome of the case.

The lawsuit filed on behalf of five individuals contends that it's illegal to require someone who passed a background check to wait three days before completing a gun purchase, and that this argument is bolstered by a 2022 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that changed the standard for gun restrictions.

"Nothing in our nation's his-

torical tradition of firearm regulation supports that kind of 'cooling-off period' measure, which is a 20th century regulatory innovation that is flatly inconsistent

with the Second Amendment's original meaning," the plaintiffs' attorneys wrote in the federal lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Maine is one of a dozen

states that have a waiting periods for gun purchases. The District of Columbia also has one. Democratic Gov. Janet Mills allowed Maine's restriction to become law without her signature. It took effect in August.

Maine's waiting period law was one of several gun control measures the Democratic-controlled Legislature passed after an Army reservist killed 18 people and wounded 13 others in the state's deadliest shooting in October 2023.

Laura Whitcomb, president of Gun Owners of Maine, said Wednesday that the lawsuit is being led by coalition of her group and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, with assistance

from the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

She and other critics of the waiting period law have pointed out that there are certain situations where a gun purchase shouldn't be delayed, such as when a domestic violence victim wants to buy one.

Maine hunting guides have also pointed out that someone who's in the state for a short period for legal hunting may no longer be able to buy a gun for the outing.

The plaintiffs include gun sellers and gunsmiths who claim their businesses are being harmed, along with a domestic abuse victim who armed herself because she didn't think a court order would protect her. □



A selection of Sig Sauer pistols are displayed at the Kittery Trading Post, Aug. 9, 2024, in Kittery, Maine.

Associated Press

## Dutch lawmaker Wilders wants to deport those convicted of violence against Israeli soccer fans

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Hard-right Dutch political leader Geert Wilders on Wednesday blamed "Moroccans" for attacks on Israeli soccer fans in Amsterdam last week, asserting that they "want to destroy Jews" and recommending the deportation of people convicted of involvement if they have dual nationality.

While lawmakers condemned antisemitism and agreed that perpetrators of the violence should be prosecuted and handed harsh punishments, opposition legislators accused Wilders of "pouring oil on the fire" and said his statements during a parliamentary debate were not conducive to "a better society."

Violence erupted in the Dutch capital before and after last week's soccer match between Ajax Amsterdam and Maccabi Tel Aviv. Fans from both sides were involved in unrest; a number of Maccabi fans attacked a cab and chanted anti-Arab slogans while some men carried out "hit and run" attacks on people they thought were Jews, according to Amster-



In this image taken from video, a group of pro-Palestinian protesters walk toward police line, with police vans driving in the background, near the soccer stadium in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024.

dam Mayor Femke Halsema. After the match, parts of a large group of Maccabi supporters armed with sticks ran around "destroying things," a 12-page report on the violence issued by Amsterdam authorities said. There were also "rioters, moving in small groups, by foot, scooter or car, quickly attacking Maccabi fans before disappearing," it said.

Amsterdam police said five people were treated in hospital for injuries. Police detained dozens of people before the match, but there were no immediate

arrests for violence after it. On Wednesday night, hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered on Amsterdam's central Dam Square to hold a demonstration despite a new city ban on such gatherings. Large numbers of police were present and ordered the protesters to move to a park in western Amsterdam where they had been granted permission to demonstrate. Reports of antisemitic speech, vandalism and violence have been on the rise in Europe since the start of the war in Gaza, and tensions were high in

Amsterdam ahead of the soccer match. The assaults on Maccabi fans sparked outrage and were widely condemned as antisemitic. The violence badly tarnished Amsterdam's long-held image as a haven of tolerance and sparked soul-searching across the country.

Wilders, whose anti-immigration Party for Freedom won elections last year and now is part of a four-party ruling coalition government, said Wednesday that on the night Amsterdam commemorated Kristallnacht, the 1938 anti-Jewish

Associated Press

pogrom in Nazi Germany, "we saw Muslims hunting Jews on the streets of Amsterdam," and blamed "Moroccans who want to destroy Jews."

He added that it was "a miracle that there were no deaths."

He advocated canceling the Dutch passports of people convicted of involvement in the violence if they have a double passport and deporting them. Wilders, who is sometimes described as the Dutch Donald Trump because of his fierce anti-immigration rhetoric, has lived under round-the-clock protection for 20 years because of death threats from Islamic extremists. He has also long been a staunch supporter of Israel.

Some lawmakers warned that his new comments only served to deepen divisions in Dutch society.

Rob Jetten of the centrist D66 party said Wilders' rhetoric "does not contribute in any way to healing. In no way does he contribute to bringing our country together, but he throws oil on the fire and thus does not bring solutions against antisemitism and for a better society any closer, but only further away." □

## Pakistan employs new measures to deal with nearly 70,000 people affected daily by hazardous smog

By ASIM TANVEER

Associated Press

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP) —

Pakistani authorities introduced mobile clinics and added more beds in hospitals to treat the nearly 70,000 patients received daily with respiratory-related diseases as hazardous smog continued to shroud the country's east, officials said Wednesday.

Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province with 127 million residents, has been hit by a record-high ongoing wave of pollution since October. The U.N. children's agency on Monday warned that the health of 11 million children there

was at risk.

Lahore and Multan, the province's two main cities hit by smog, remained the two most polluted cities in the world on Wednesday, with air quality index readings of about 400, according to the Environmental Protection Department. Anything over 300 is considered hazardous to health.

The dangerous smog is a byproduct of large numbers of vehicles, construction and industrial work as well as burning crops at the start of the winter wheat-planting season, experts say.

Meanwhile, more than 200 clinics on board ve-

hicles have been roaming the smog-hit province of Punjab since last week in search of people who can't afford treatment and the elderly who can't make it to hospitals, a top government official at the Health Department, Aun Abbas, said.

Abbas said the mobile clinics are equipped to handle basic laboratory tests and doctors onboard can prescribe medication as needed.

Uzma Bukhari, a spokesperson for the Punjab provincial government, said more than 2.1 million patients affected by smog have so far been treated at state-

owned hospitals, adding the number is expected to grow.

Schools in the province have been ordered to shut down until Nov. 17, to pro-

tect children, and all parks and museums until Nov. 18. Doctors have urged people to avoid unnecessary travel and wear face masks. □



Vehicles move slow due to reduced visibility caused by smog enveloping the area of Lahore, Pakistan, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

## Allies providing Sudan's warring parties with weapons are 'enabling the slaughter,' U.N. official says

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The U.N. political chief accused allies of Sudan's warring military and paramilitary forces on Tuesday of "enabling the slaughter" that has killed more than 24,000 people and created the world's worst displacement crisis.

"This is unconscionable," Rosemary DiCarlo told the U.N. Security Council. "It is illegal, and it must end."

She didn't name the countries funding and providing weapons to Sudan's military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, but she said they have a responsibility to press both sides to work for a negotiated settlement of the war.

Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to other regions, including western Darfur, which was wracked by bloodshed and atrocities in 2003. The U.N. recently warned that the country has been pushed to the brink of famine.

Last month, the RSF rampaged through the province of Gezira, attacking towns and villages, killing



People gather to collect water in Khartoum, Sudan, May 28, 2023.

Associated Press

dozens of people and raping women and girls, according to the U.N. and local groups.

DiCarlo told the council that nongovernmental organizations say those attacks have been marked by "some of the most extreme violence in the last 18 months."

She strongly condemned the RSF's continuing attacks against civilians and said the U.N. is also "appalled by the attacks against civilians perpetrated by forces affiliated with the Suda-

nese Armed Forces in the Khartoum area."

DiCarlo said it is long past time for the rival forces to come to the negotiating table, but she said both sides seem convinced they can win on the battlefield, and this is being fueled by outside support and weapons.

"As the end of the rainy season approaches, the parties continue to escalate their military operations, recruit new fighters and intensify their attacks," she said. "This is possible

thanks to considerable external support, including a steady flow of weapons into the country."

Sudan has accused the United Arab Emirates of arming the RSF, which the UAE vehemently denies. The RSF has also reportedly received support from Russia's Wagner mercenary group. And U.N. experts said in a report earlier this year that the RSF received support from Arab-allied communities and new military supply lines running through Chad, Libya and

South Sudan.

As for the government, Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, who led a military takeover of Sudan in 2021, is a close ally of neighboring Egypt and its president, former army chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. In February, Sudan's foreign minister held talks in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart amid unconfirmed reports of drone purchases for government forces.

DiCarlo called for stepped up international action to protect civilians and promote talks.

She said U.N. special envoy for Sudan Ramtane Lamamra "is considering the next phase of his engagement with the warring parties, including another round of 'proximity talks' focused on commitments related to the protection of civilians." Sudan's military boycotted proximity talks in Geneva, Switzerland, in July aimed at spurring humanitarian aid and starting peace talks despite international pleas that it take part. The RSF sent a delegation to Geneva. DiCarlo said Lamamra will travel to Sudan and other places in the region in the coming weeks to meet key stakeholders to discuss a new attempt at talks. □

## Philippines says it will cooperate if ICC seeks Duterte's custody over drug killings



Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, listens beside former senator Leila de Lima during a joint committee hearing of the House of Representatives investigating the war on drugs during his administration in Quezon City, Philippines on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — The Philippine government said Wednesday its law enforcement agencies will be bound to cooperate if the International Criminal Court seeks the custody of former President Rodrigo Duterte as part of an investigation into thousands of deaths during his crackdown on illegal drugs.

The Hague-based court has been investigating the widespread killings that took place while Duterte was mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later as president from 2016 to 2020, as a possible crime against humanity.

Human rights groups estimate the deaths could exceed 20,000 during Duterte's presidency alone. The bloody campaign alarmed Western governments and led to complaints that sparked the investigation by the ICC, a court of last resort for crimes that countries are unwilling or unable to prosecute themselves.

Under intense grilling in a televised congressional inquiry Wednesday, the brash-speaking Duterte gave conflicting statements whether he would submit himself to the global court for investigation.

"The ICC does not scare me a bit. They can come here anytime," Duterte told members of the House of Representatives conducting the inquiry. "I'm asking the ICC to hurry up and come here and start the investigation tomorrow."

"This issue has been hanging for many years and I may already die," the 79-year-old said. "If I'm found guilty, I can go to prison and rot there for all time." □

## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ** — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

### Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamento. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □



**(Oranjestad)—Today we celebrate Valentine's Day, and what can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.**

### California Light House

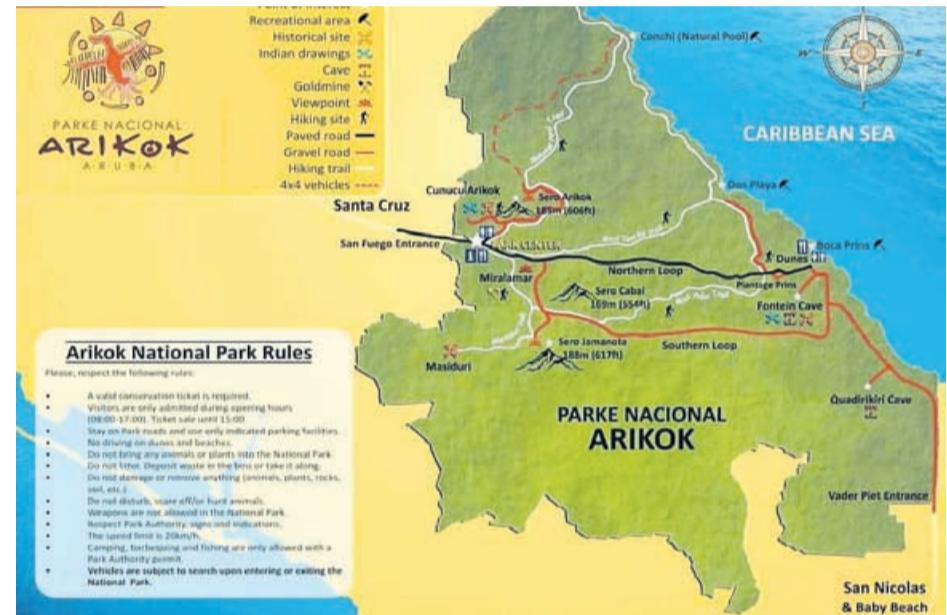
Of course, being one of the highest point easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremen-

## Best spots to view the sunset

dous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

### Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the



white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!\*

### Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.

### Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your

partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

### Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell... □

**BELGIAN BISTRO**  
**L'AVENUE**  
~ ARUBA ~  
THE NEW (AND ONLY) BELGIAN RESTAURANT  
MUSSELS-STEAK 'N FRIES-BELGIAN BEERS  
FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATION  
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OPEN EVERY DAY  
LUNCH - DINNER  
EARLY BIRD  
4PM TILL 7PM  
\$29.50  
3 COURSE INCLUDES A GLASS OF WINE  
LOCATED IN THE COVE, PALM BEACH, ARUBA

## Don't miss out on L'Avenue's Early Bird Special!



(Oranjestad)—Up to grab an early dinner after a day of shopping or cruising? Take advantage of L'Avenue's Early Bird Special, and experience their innovative twist of traditional Belgian cuisine!

Located in a cozy nook at The Cove Mall—a short walking distance from the Holiday Inn and Paseo Herencia, this Belgian and French bistro offers a delicious and rich menu available through lunch and dinner from 11am to

10pm. Enjoy your lunch and/or dinner in a cool, air-conditioned interior area of the restaurant, accompanied by the warm lights and chic design that emphasizes the restaurant's laid-back, yet sophisticated ambience.

Lunch includes a variety of sandwiches—with a healthy selection of bread options—if you're going for a light meal, but just like their dinner selection, also includes steak, chicken, fish, and even mussels and rabbit if you're craving a bit more of L'Avenue's exquisite menu. And let's not forget their wide selection of Belgian beer and European wine to complete the tasty experience!

But that's not all! L'Avenue is offering their guests their Early Bird Special, available every day from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy this affordable and



delectable 3-course meal special at a comfortable price of \$29.50 per guest, which includes a selection of their fine in-house wine.

L'Avenue honors and takes pride in serving the traditional Belgian and French flavors, but does not shy away from offering a flexible menu for their guests' needs. That's right, L'Avenue also offers to cater for their guests' dietary restrictions, making sure that each guest gets well taken care of!

### More information

L'Avenue is situated at The Cove Mall in Palm Beach and is open every day from 11am to 10pm for lunch and dinner. To book a reserva-

tion or ask for more information, please contact their phone line at +297 6996400, send an e-mail [info@lavenuearuba.com](mailto:info@lavenuearuba.com), or visit their website at [lavenuearuba.com](http://lavenuearuba.com) □



## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to

me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Amy from Minneapolis, MN, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to



me is....all of the wonderful friends we have made here over the past 30 years! They make me SMILE! "

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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 Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard | The Market  
 Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts  
 Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila

## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10+years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
 Goodwill Ambassador (20+years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
 Emerald Ambassador (35+years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors  
 Mr. Michael & Mrs. Pavlette Ceccofiglio from

Woonsocket, Rhode Island, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Bucuti & Tara Beach Club Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- It's become our second home
- We made so many friends here
- It is how we celebrate our anniversary
- The Bucuti staff are part of our family now
- The beach is beautiful. We love Aruba

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



## The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the



time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had

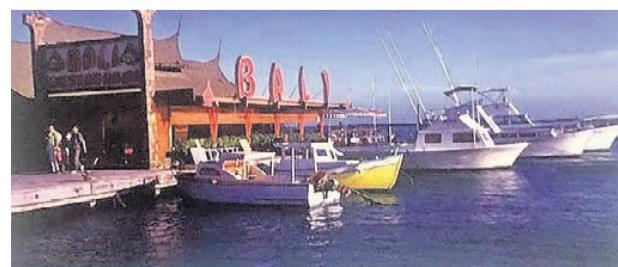
its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers. q



## Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

### Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired

by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also

encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

### Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com) for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign



**For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.**

#### Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the casca-

bel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

#### Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and

## Unique fauna of Aruba

lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

#### Prikichi

##### (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

#### Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in

a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □



**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

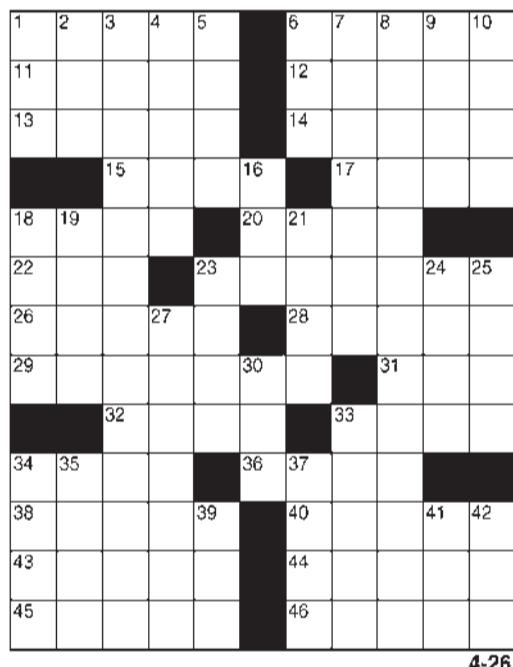
- 1 Not flimsy 43 "Rolling in the Deep"
- 6 Molten rock 44 Frighten
- 11 Battery end 45 Trouble
- 12 Mexican farewell 46 Undue rush
- 13 Gothic architecture feature
- 14 Pool hall stuff
- 15 Pollux's mother
- 17 Cuts off
- 18 God with a hammer
- 20 Cruise stop
- 22 Drill target
- 23 Hates
- 26 Carl's wife in "Up"
- 28 Perfect
- 29 Guile
- 31 Status —
- 32 One of a bear family
- 33 Fetching
- 34 Salon sound
- 36 Half a sextet
- 38 North African capital
- 40 Verdi pieces



Yesterday's answer

**DOWN**

- 1 Slump
- 2 "Not — dare!"
- 3 Tall trees
- 4 Lazy sort
- 5 Title paper
- 6 Buddy
- 7 Stuck
- 8 Tall trees
- 9 Blue cheese feature
- 10 Sets the price at
- 16 Clumsy one
- 18 Foot features
- 19 Rise
- 21 Elevator pioneer
- 23 Like an abyss
- 24 Lacking slack
- 25 Tart fruit
- 27 Heaped up
- 30 Plopped down
- 33 Date qualifier
- 34 Rough guess
- 35 Au naturel
- 37 Foolhardy
- 39 Ready to go
- 41 Trickery
- 42 Spot



A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-26

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

D X N   O P M   G J I   J X B J I C G   U V P T K  
C P   G J D G   X O   A P T   N X C C   X G ,  
A P T   Q X V V   J X G   D   V P O G A  
N P T E G D X E .   —   N D P M X

W M P R I M Z

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DEMOCRACY IS THE RECURRENT SUSPICION THAT MORE THAN HALF OF THE PEOPLE ARE RIGHT MORE THAN HALF THE TIME. — E.B. WHITE

**Cruise ship Schedule: November 11 - 21 2024**

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH
MON	11	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE CARNIVAL PRIDE	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C 1 1
TUE	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON CELEBRITY ASCENT FREEWINDS	08.00 11.30 06.00	22.00 21.00 ****	C I E 1
WED	13	ENCHANTED PRINCESS CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00 10.30	18.00 21.00	B C 1 1
FRI	15	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C 1
SUN	17	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E -
TUE	19	CARNIVAL MAGIC FREEWINDS	09.00 06.00	22.00 ****	C E 1 1
THU	21	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C 1

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

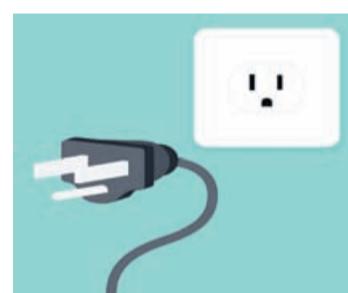
## Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

## Electrical power



## Drinking water



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

## Safety



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



A container of Narcan, or naloxone, sits on tree roots at a longstanding homeless encampment in Bellingham, Wash., on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.

Associated Press

## U.S. overdose deaths are down, giving experts hope for an enduring decline

By MIKE STOBBE  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The decline in U.S. drug overdose deaths appears to have continued this year, giving experts hope the nation is seeing sustained improvement in the persistent epidemic.

There were about 97,000 overdose deaths in the 12-month period that ended June 30, according to provisional Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data released Wednesday. That's down 14% from the estimated 113,000 for the previous 12-month period.

"This is a pretty stunning and rapid reversal of drug overdose mortality numbers," said Brandon Marshall, a Brown University researcher who studies overdose trends.

Overdose death rates began steadily climbing in the 1990s because of opioid painkillers, followed by waves of deaths led by other opioids like heroin and more recently illicit fentanyl. Provisional data had indicated a slight decline for 2023, and the tally released Wednesday showed that the downward trend has kept going.

Of course, there have been moments in the last several years when U.S. overdose deaths seemed to have plateaued or even started to go down, only to rise again, Marshall noted.

"This seems to be substantial and sustained," Marshall said. "I think there's real reason for hope here." □

**ARUBA TODAY**

**BONDIA ARUBA**

## How to reach us!

Map showing the location of Aruba Today and Bondia Aruba offices in downtown Willemstad. Key landmarks include the Royal Plaza Mall, High Rise Hotels, and L.G. Smith Boulevard.

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**BONDIA ARUBA**

**How to reach us!**

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Price :\$ 750,000  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

#### House for sale

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5 min walk to the ocean  
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Garden / ocean view  
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#### Aruba Divi Phoenix

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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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At :\$5 a points  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

#### For sale

Eagle beach  
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2 BR 3 bath on the 3 rd floor  
Price :\$ 980,000  
Call : 011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



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##### DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

##### PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Oduber: Tel.582 1780

San Nicolas:

San Nicolas:Tel. 584 5712

##### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

##### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

##### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

##### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

##### AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	
Tel. 588 0002	
FAVI- Visually Impaired	
Tel. 582 5051	
Alcoholics Anonymous	
Tel. 736 2952	
Narcotics Anonymous	
Tel. 583 8989	
Fundacion Contra Violencia	
Relacional Tel. 583 5400	
Centre for Diabetes	
Tel. 524 8888	
Child Abuse Prevention	
Tel. 582 4433	
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672	

##### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



## Dolly Parton sings her family's story on 'Smoky Mountain DNA.' She says it is her 'favorite album'

By MARIA SHERMAN

AP Music Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Dolly Parton's musical story starts further back than most might expect to the British Isles of the 1600s. That's where her ancestors hail from, eventually landing in the hollers of East Tennessee and its familiar mountain ranges, bringing their songs with them. A new album out Friday, "Smoky Mountain DNA: Family, Faith & Fables" credited to Dolly Parton and Family, explores the great legacy of the Partons and the Owens, her maternal family, as she performs alongside five generations of family members.

"My grandpa used to say when I got famous, he said, 'Well, she came out crying in the key of D,'" she told The Associated Press. "I think we all did."

"Smoky Mountain DNA" was an inevitable labor of love, one that taught Parton more about her family line.

"We're kind of like the Carter family. We go back generations," Parton said. (The Carters are widely considered the first family of country music.)

"I would imagine this will be my favorite album," Parton said. "This really involves, you know, my grandmas and my grandpas, my un-



**Dolly Parton appears at an event to celebrate the expansion of the Imagination Library of Kentucky at the Lyric Theatre in Lexington, Ky., on Aug. 27, 2024.**

cles and my aunts and all the people going all the way back that had the biggest influence on my life. The ones that I remember from being little, and it even goes on farther back from there."

Richie Owens Parton's cousin, who she describes as "the family historian" produced "Smoky Mountain DNA." He says that the family has long been archivists, but the idea to curate a record started around 2010 and 2011, delayed by a few deaths. Then, right before the pandemic, Parton approached Owens

and said, "we need to get together and start trying to get all this information (and) material together," he recalls. Because Owens had already been working on a family story, specifically tied to his grandfather's fiddle, they teamed up for what is now "Smoky Mountain DNA." For some of the new songs, Owens utilized digital technology what he compares to the AI-assist on the last new Beatles song, "Now and Then," used to extract John Lennon's voice from an old demo for a new composition for "restora-

tion work." "With the technology that's been available, we were able to achieve wonderful, miraculous situations where we were able to go in and build new music tracks" from previous vocal recordings of deceased family members, he says. It was about cleaning up the crackles and noise not about creating doctored recordings. "I got very, very emotional many times when I was singing, especially with the ones that have already passed and just remembering their voices, hear-

**Associated Press**

ing them," Parton says. "It just kind of threw me in to a deep emotional place, just like I had them back again. So, the whole thing was very heart wrenching. But it was really amazing and very restoring. It had so many colors of emotions in it."

Parton and Owens started curating the album by finding songs that she had co-written with deceased family members or those of deceased family members that she had recorded previously. Others were hits and integral to the story of their heritage, and the songs recorded with younger members of the family including those born in the 21st century included more Parton co-writes, but with styles that felt true to each person.

That's one of the many reasons the album, which is centered in country, folk, hymns and bluegrass, spans a wide swath of genres, including a kind of soulful R&B performance (like on "Not Bad" with Shelley Rená), swamp pop ("I Just Stopped By" with Parton's late uncle Robert "John Henry" Owens), various rock genres ("Where Will We Live Tomorrow" with Rebecca Seaver and "Crazy in Love with You" with Richie Owens' daughter Estelle). □

## John Krasinski named People magazine's 2024 Sexiest Man Alive

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Let the office debates begin

John Krasinski is People magazine's Sexiest Man



**Director John Krasinski poses for photographers upon arrival at the UK Premiere of the film 'IF' in London, May 7, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

Alive for 2024.

The magazine announced the actor-writer-director as its pick Tuesday night during "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

Krasinski starred in "The Office" before launching the "Quiet Place" franchise and leading the action series "Jack Ryan." He joked in an interview with the magazine that he's hoping his wife, fellow actor Emily Blunt, makes good on a promise to plaster the cover as wallpaper at their home.

He takes the mantle from last year's honoree, Patrick Dempsey.

Krasinski, 45, told People that his immediate reaction to the honor was "just immediate blackout, actually. Zero thoughts." He added that he thought he might be getting pranked. He burst to fame playing the floppy-haired, lanky Jim on the U.S. version of the mockumentary "The Office," and transitioned into the clean-cut, muscular action star on Amazon's "Jack Ryan," playing the Tom Clancy character previously portrayed by Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck on the big screen. He also co-wrote, directed and starred in "A

"Quiet Place," which has grown into a three-film franchise, and created the short-lived but immensely popular pandemic-era webseries "Some Good News." Earlier this year, he debuted his sixth directorial effort, "IF," a film about imaginary friends that also featured Blunt.

The couple have two daughters together.

Krasinski told People in the issue that's on newsstands on Friday that the honor is likely to result in more than just jokes at home.

"I think it's going to make me do more household chores," he quipped. □

## Quarterback carousel should start spinning for a couple of NFL teams: Analysis

By ROB MAADDI  
AP Pro Football Writer

Joe Flacco is still a starter. Daniel Jones might get benched. Bryce Young earned another opportunity. Caleb Williams isn't losing his job.

The quarterback carousel isn't spinning. It should in some cases.

The Colts are sticking with Flacco over Anthony Richardson despite another poor performance in a 30-20 loss to Buffalo on Sunday. Flacco is 1-3 as a starter this season and has six turnovers, including four interceptions, in the past two games.

Coach Shane Steichen made the switch from Richardson to Flacco because he felt the 39-year-old veteran gave Indianapolis a better chance to win now. That hasn't happened and the Colts (4-6) are headed nowhere.

Even if they manage to make the playoffs, this team isn't a Super Bowl contender. The 22-year-old Richardson needs game experience. He threw just 393 passes in college at Florida before Indianapolis selected him with the fourth pick overall in last year's NFL draft.

Richardson has raw tal-



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Joe Flacco (15) looks to throw a pass during the second half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

ent but coaches have to help him develop. It made sense to turn to Flacco a few weeks ago. But the 2023 AP Comeback Player of the Year hasn't sparked the Colts the way he did for the Browns last season. So going back to Richardson is the right move now for the future. Finding out if he can be the franchise quarterback should be the priority over the final seven games. The New York Giants (2-8)

have a different situation

with Jones, whose contract is a factor. Jones has an injury guarantee for \$23 million for 2025.

Benching him to prevent an injury is a likely scenario. The Broncos did it to Russell Wilson last year and the Raiders did it with Derek Carr in 2022.

The Giants are in position to get the No. 1 pick in the 2025 NFL draft so they'd be wise to start whichever quarterback Drew Lock or Tommy DeVito gives

them the least chance of winning. Securing the top pick would give New York its choice of college quarterbacks whether it's Colorado's Shedeur Sanders, Miami's Cam Ward or Georgia's Carson Beck. The Carolina Panthers already benched Young, the 2023 No. 1 overall pick. But Young returned to the lineup when Andy Dalton was injured three weeks ago and he's shown improvement while leading the

Panthers (3-7) to consecutive wins.

Like the Colts and Richardson, the Panthers need to find out what they have in Young. Playing him the rest of the season is the best way to learn.

In Chicago, Williams has regressed since an excellent stretch helped the Bears win three straight games. But they've gone from 4-2 to 4-5 and Williams has struggled. He has completed just 50.5% of his passes with no TDs and no interceptions over a three-game losing streak.

Embattled Bears coach Matt Eberflus has no plans to bench the rookie No. 1 overall pick. And, he shouldn't. Offensive scheme and system is the bigger problem in Chicago and that cost Shane Waldron his job. Thomas Brown was been promoted to offensive coordinator to replace him on Tuesday.

Micah's mouth

Cowboys star edge rusher Micah Parsons returned from an ankle injury and made more headlines with postgame comments about coach Mike McCarthy. Parsons had two sacks and forced a fumble but Dallas lost 34-6 to the Philadelphia Eagles.□

## Texas Rangers hire 2023 NL top manager Skip Schumaker as a senior adviser



Miami Marlins manager Skip Schumaker looks on during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, Aug. 27, 2024, in Denver.

Associated Press

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — The Texas Rangers have hired former Miami Marlins manager Skip Schumaker as a senior adviser for baseball operations.

Texas announced Schumaker's addition to its front office on Wednesday, when the team also signed right-handed pitcher Luis Curvelo to a one-year contract calling for the \$760,000 minimum while in the major leagues and \$90,000 while in the minors.

Schumaker was the 2023 NL Manager of the Year after Miami went 84-78 and made the fourth postseason appearance in club history. The Marlins slipped to 62-100 last season after the organization had parted ways with general manager Kim Ng, who was responsible for hiring Schumaker and building the roster that made the playoffs.

The Marlins and Schumaker mutually agreed that he would not return for the 2025 season. He led a roster decimated by trades and injuries to a 146-178 record over the past two seasons.

Before going to Miami, Schumaker was a bench coach for St. Louis, where he played for the Cardinals during their 2011 World Series championship over Texas. He played 11 big league seasons with St. Louis (2005-12), the Los Angeles Dodgers (2013) and Cincinnati (2014-15).

The 24-year-old Curvelo was 4-0 with three saves and a 2.57 ERA (19 ER over 66 2/3 innings) over 49 relief appearances this year for Double-A Arkansas in Seattle's organization. He is seeking his big league debut.

Curvelo, who is from Venezuela, originally signed with Seattle as an international free agent in 2018.□

# Spurs coach Gregg Popovich had a stroke earlier this month, is expected to make full recovery

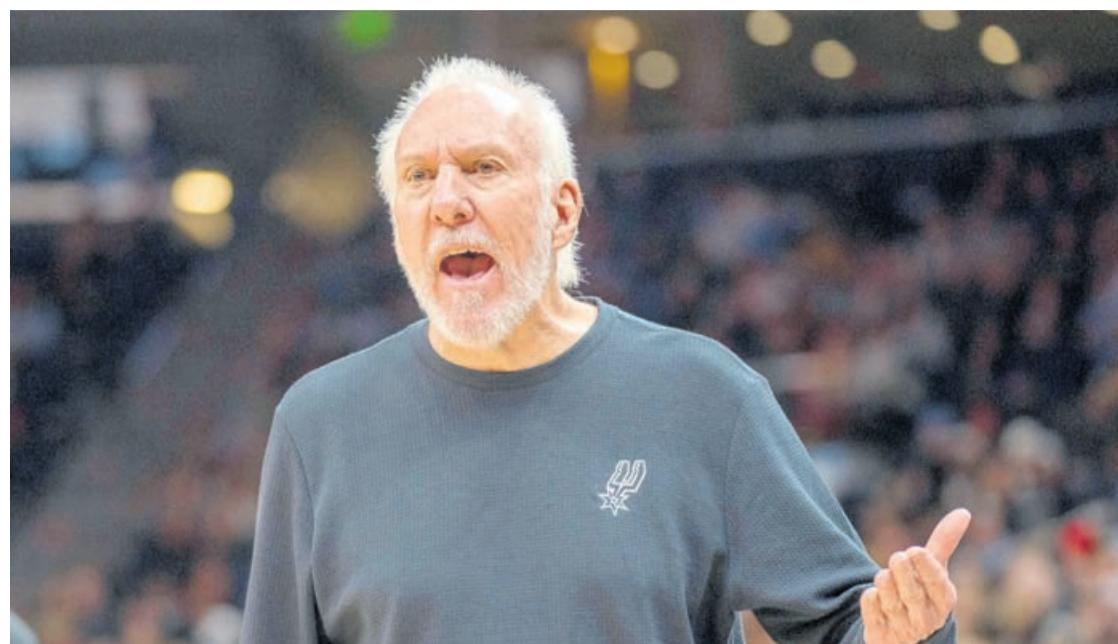
By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

Basketball Hall of Famer Gregg Popovich has been away from the team because he suffered a mild stroke earlier this month, the San Antonio Spurs announced Wednesday.

Popovich is in his 29th season as coach of the Spurs and there is no timetable for his return to the sideline, the team said. The stroke happened on Nov. 2 at the team's arena, and Popovich is expected to make a full recovery.

The 75-year-old Popovich, the NBA's all-time win leader who has led the Spurs to five championships and USA Basketball to a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, has already started a



San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich reacts after a call by the official, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, in Salt Lake City.

**Associated Press**

rehabilitation program, the

"During this time, the organization is grateful to the

extended community for providing privacy and space

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to the Popovich family," the Spurs said in a release.

Assistant coach Mitch Johnson has been the acting head coach in Popovich's absence. The Spurs play at home Wednesday against Washington, and that will be the seventh straight game where Johnson will be filling in for Popovich.

"Mitch has been great," Spurs rookie Stephon Castle said Wednesday, before the team announced the details about Popovich's health. "Even when Pop was here, he's always had a voice in our huddles and in our locker room. Our philosophies haven't been changed."

A stroke happens when blood flow to part of the brain is blocked or if a blood vessel in the brain bursts. That deprives the brain of oxygen which can cause brain damage that can lead to difficulty thinking, talking and walking, or even death.

Strokes may lead to difficulty speaking, paralysis or loss of movement in certain muscles, memory loss and more. It is unknown if Popovich is dealing with any aftereffects of the stroke.

Stroke was the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2023, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than half a million Americans have a stroke every year.

The Spurs were playing the Minnesota Timberwolves at home on Nov. 2, and Popovich's medical episode occurred there in the hours before that game. Johnson took over for that night's contest, which the Spurs won, after the team said Popovich was not feeling well.

Johnson and Popovich spoke the following day. The Spurs had not released much in the way of details since, prior to Wednesday's announcement about the stroke.

"Right now, his health is the No. 1 priority," Johnson said on Nov. 4, adding, "He's in good spirits. He'll be OK. He is OK. And we can't wait to have him back." □